

## FROM CAIRO.

## The Steam Tugs—Visit to the Mortar Rafts—Their Construction—Prospect of a Desperate Fight at Columbus.

From Our Special Correspondent.

CAIRO, Ill., Friday, February 29, 1862.

Each of the gunboats keeps a body-servant, in the shape of a little steaming, employed as a tender during battle, and to run of errands while they are lying up for repairs. There are thirteen now here, a few of which were bought in Chicago, but the most built at St. Louis, by order of Gen. Fremont, to accompany the grand flotilla down the river. On Wednesday, desiring to visit the mortar rafts, two miles and a half up the Ohio, I made the effort on horseback; but was turned back by the flood which encircles Cairo, and threatens to submerge it, when the levee shall break one of these fine mornings. Yesterday, in company with Mr. Coffin, of the *Boston Journal*, I repeated the attempt more successfully, through the courtesy of Capt. Wise, Quartermaster of the fleet, who furnished one of the tugs for the purpose.

Our little pocket-edition of a steamboat, which contains sleeping accommodations for half a dozen men, and can carry fifty or sixty, upon an emergency, sent forth a startling premonitory creaking from her whistle, bustled about for a few minutes in discharging herself from the many web of gunboats, transports and tugs, and then steamed up the current at the rate of twelve miles an hour. We found the work upon the rafts going forward vigorously, in compliance with a request for experienced and skilled mechanics, W. H. Osborn, cap. President of the Illinois Central Railroad Company, recently closed the machine shop of that corporation at Chicago, and sent a hundred and fifty of its employees here, to work upon the rafts, and the assistance thus furnished has added greatly in expediting their completion. They are of plain timber, sixty feet long by twenty wide. Each carrying one 13-inch mortar, and protected from musketry by bulwarks of iron plating around the sides.

The mortars, about four feet in length, with seventeen inches of solid metal surrounding the cavity, making their diameter at the muzzle forty-seven inches, are ominous-looking engines of destruction. They are likely to play an important part in the attack upon Columbus, always threatening that the Rebels do not evacuate that Gibraltar before our fleet moves down the river. Many suppose that Gen. Grant, with a large land force, will start from Fort Donelson, to strike the Mississippi below Columbus, and that Gen. Pope, at the same time, will go down on the Missouri shore to New-Madrid. Should those movements be made, and batteries placed on the banks, to stop steamboat communication with Memphis, Columbus will be surrounded on all sides; and whenever they commence, the Rebels may fall back without a fight, though present indications are that they will not do so, but make a desperate dash at Columbus.

The mortar rafts can be fired up to the shore, three miles this side of Columbus, quite hidden from it by the hills; and yet, it is claimed, their shells right into the fortifications, with entire accuracy. Capt. Stembel, of the Cincinnati, avouches that they can obtain the range so perfectly as to throw their missiles within three feet of the mark. If that is the case, shelling out Columbus promises to be a pleasant sort of pastime, not at all requiring that our gunboats should charge the batteries, as was done at Henry and Donelson. The gunboats will be in order to-morrow night. Commodore Foote thinks that not more than twenty of the thirty-eight rafts can be used to advantage in the attack; and as the mortars are already mounted upon twenty-three, the preparations would seem to be nearly completed. Still, it is not probable that the attack will be made with in a week. The impression here is that Gen. Halleck will soon remove his headquarters to Cairo, and command operations in person.

## FROM WASHINGTON.

## A Faithful Public Servant.

From Our Own Correspondent.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 29, 1862.

Francis Datcher, a colored man by birth, a French nobleman in manner, honorable, faithful, intelligent and respected, died last week in the 43d year of his service as a Messenger in the War Department. A part of his property was a parchment, covered thickly with the autograph records of the approval of his official conduct by the several Secretaries of War under whom he served in that long period of time. A month since, a friendly compact was made between Francis and myself, that when Death should discharge him of his duties to the Government, this parchment record of honor should be published to the world in the journal which he honored for his love of his men. I esteem it a privilege to be permitted to fulfill this promise.

Francis Datcher has served during the last six years as Assistant Messenger in the War Office, and I have pleasure in testifying that he has performed the duties assigned him with all the assiduity, activity, and fidelity, and is entitled to the approval of the Department.

Given this 3d day of March, 1862.

JOHN H. BAYLOR, Secy. of War.

I wish to place on record the good qualities of Francis Datcher, who has served during his long career in the War Department with the most faithful and efficient manner.

Given this 3d day of March, 1862.

JOHN H. BAYLOR, Secy. of War.

I have found Francis Datcher to be a man of great energy and activity, and his services have been of great value to the War Department.

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of War. Almost every year since, in passing through the streets of Washington, I have seen a French nobleman in manner, honorable, faithful, intelligent and respected, died last week in the 43d year of his service as a Messenger in the War Department. A part of his property was a parchment, covered thickly with the autograph records of the approval of his official conduct by the several Secretaries of War under whom he served in that long period of time. A month since, a friendly compact was made between Francis and myself, that when Death should discharge him of his duties to the Government, this parchment record of honor should be published to the world in the journal which he honored for his love of his men. I esteem it a privilege to be permitted to fulfill this promise.

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tain this skill, the horseman must be frequently exercised in open country and on broken ground—urged to the gallop—left to himself to measure his distances in thrusting, sabering, and cutting at the heads of the supposed enemy. A skillful horseman should be able to turn short, and suddenly halt his charger at the top of his speed—make him turn on his haunches, leap ditches, hedges, and over cross-poles. Two horsemen must also be habituated to run after each other, leaping over the elements of the ground—to cross rivers by swimming, and to fire at a target at all the paces—the walk, the trot, and the gallop.

II. *Recurring.*—We must select men from the inhabitants of these districts where horses are bred—men accustomed not to fear horses, used to their management and the care of them—men who take an interest in the well-being of the horse. A recruit from a hilly country, from a manufactory or trade, for a long time looks upon the horse between his legs as an enemy whom he fears—he does not fall in love with him, grows him hilly, and totally neglects those attentions which endear the kind master to his grateful horse. The rider must be vigorous, robust, alert; his strength must be proportioned to that of the horse, the weight of his arms, his stature about the average. Bad characters of all kinds—doctors, vagabonds, convicts, should never be received in the cavalry.

III. *Training of the Horse.*—This is a most important matter. It is absolutely necessary that the horses should be supple, obedient, and trained with all the skill and easy progression so desirable in the men themselves, whose duty it is to prepare, direct, and inspire them with confidence. In the usual training there is very little coaxing and too much violence and abruptness, causing premature fatigue. The result is that the horse is scarcely under control, is headstrong, skittish, and restive; he is not in the rider's hand; he is not mastered.

IV. *Instruction of Recruits.*—Having carefully recruited the cavalry, we must, by a methodical education, familiarize the recruit with the knowledge of the material which he is to use, and all the theoretical and practical military notions with which he must be acquainted. His intelligence must be developed; we must win his confidence by frequent questions on his instruction, and devote a portion of his time to progressive gymnastic exercises to render his body supple and give occupation to his intellect. When the men are able to manage their horses, they must be taught to handle their arms during all the rates of movement and while leaping over obstacles. Conclude the instruction with company charges, or charges in extended order. In these charges the men will learn how to rally, to regulate the speed of their rates in column or four, by gradually augmenting the rate—in order to keep the horses in line, without wasting their means of endurance and endangering their preservation. This part of the instruction demands special attention, for rapidly in the rate, and regularly in the movements, are the principles of all success over the enemy, and mobility gives the means of taking the initiative and anticipating the attack of our wings by the enemy. This individual instruction, calculated to render the horse more active and mobile, is necessary to avoid, partially at least, the disastrous effects of the infantry fire and that of the artillery, whose arms have so long a range and whose firing is so much improved.

V. *Better Horses.*—To obtain the indispensable mobility the horse must be more select, better fed, and vigorous, to aid the dash of the rider. It is better to pay a higher price than to place in the ranks of the cavalry lymphatic horses, defective in conformation, without sufficient energy to give the charges that daring which enables them to make those bold and successful dashes that do honor to the service.

VI. *The Horses.*—To enable the horse to move with ease and display his strength, without risking his safety, we must look to his harness. Lightness, solidity, admitting of being easily and cheaply repaired during a campaign, and, above all, comfortable to the rider without inconveniencing the horse—such are the requisite conditions of the saddle. If the man is ill at ease he cannot maintain his regular position; he hanks to ease his fatigue; he does not connect himself with the movements of the horse; his daring and dash are diminished. By all accounts the McClellan saddle of the Union Army abundantly satisfies all these requirements.

VII. *Individual Training.*—This well-elaborated system is detailed in a little book entitled *Instruction Particulière sur le Travail individuel dans la Cavalerie*. It lays down the object of the training as follows: "What constitutes the true horseman for the purposes of war is, beside his skill in the use of his arms, his dexterity in managing his horse at all its rates, and on all sorts of ground, and consequently obtaining from the horse instant obedience in all movements that may be reasonably required; hence the necessity for practicing the horseman and the horse in such conditions that both may be able to meet all the exigencies of war-service. This individual training will therefore have for its object the improvement of the rider in the management of his horse, to habituate the horse to separate from each other, and instantly to obey the will of the rider. The dispositions of this instruction are not applicable to the mere recruit, who, at the commencement of his training, finds already so much difficulty in understanding and performing all that he is taught; but one lesson at least a week, in addition to the habitual exercises, must be devoted to gymnastics, military leaping, and the various exercises adapted to improve the suppleness of the body. The facility, the correct performance of the whole system, depend entirely on the horseman's practice of this individual training. Without it, the military power of the cavalry is ruined; it is stagnant and inert in the hands of its leader, with it, that power may be infinitely developed. Therefore, in this instruction, the horseman is led progressively through a variety of movements more and more daring, and the training, by its very difficulty, develops the energy of the men, rouses their will to sustain, and gives the army skill, solid, and powerful in one word—good horsemen for the purposes of war." By mastering the true principles of the training and presenting them in a proper order to the intelligence of the men, there is nothing that constitutes a warrior which may not be taught them. The officers-in-training will therefore find, in the improvement of this individual training, a constant stimulus to their special studies, and have the satisfaction of giving to our regiments horsemen worthy of the name.

This little book—full of work, however—with its twenty-five beautiful plates, is well worthy of our consideration, with a view to its adoption and application to our cavalry. The movements, especially the new ones, are all calculated to insure the efforts of the horseman by their beautiful design—improving advances, splendid wheels in every possible variety, a grand affair emphatically termed the *Cavalcade*, and a powerful column movement perfectly resembling and called the *Cross of Malta*.

VIII. *Fighting on Foot as Skirmishers.*—Formerly three out of four men would dismount, leaving their horses in charge of the remaining horseman—but a small banding in the vicinity would throw the horse into confusion. Now they follow a different method. The men number of rapidly from one to four. The even or odd numbers—according to the word of command—dismount and throw the reins to their comrades remaining on horseback and in the ranks. The officers following the skirmishers are immediately succeeded by others, and the squadron continues its movements just as if all were mounted. The success of this training has been recently proved at the camp of Châlons.

IX. *Function of Cavalry in War.*—The principal object of an army being to give battle, the action must be planned according to the topographical distribution of the ground of operations. If the battle is in a plain, the most important part is played by the cavalry. If the latter is badly engaged, it is very rare that the army is not defeated. If, on the contrary, it is well led, and gains an advantage, the battle is probably won, and the success is rendered complete in all its results. When the army is weak in cavalry, it should occupy the heights, intrench itself, and wait for reinforcements, as did Gustavus Adolphus in abandoning the plains of Poland and retiring into Prussia. But, whatever may be the theater of war, the different kinds of cavalry are always necessary to strategic operations. In all cases it is essentially important to confide its direction only to commanders of great experience, and especially to avoid parceling it out and placing it under orders of inferior officers, who, in spite of their military education, do not habitually employ it usefully when the occasion presents itself, and know not how to spare it when it is unnecessary.

X. *Shall now endeavor to point out, by a new system of tactics, the means to be employed to avoid the disastrous effects of the improved firearms, and the different preparatory dispositions for attacking the enemy—cavalry charges, and their effect.*

1. *Raking Charges—Charges en Queue.*—We believe we must modify the means of attack, and plan them so as to lose as few men as possible, and with this object, instead of direct charges on the faces of a square or a deployed line, we must, at full speed, execute raking charges, presenting the right flank to the enemy—the horsemen breaking individually at the intervals of two yards from each other, at the top of their speed, should they weaken pace or stop, they would be soon decimated by the balls of the enemy. We must make the enemy's line at very close quarters, and threaten the eyes of the foot-soldier with the point of the sword or the lance, so as to make him come to the parry by raising the bayonet. Companies, squadrons, or whole regiments executing such charges, will inflict immense damage upon the infantry, without sustaining notable losses; for, armed with his sword, the horseman can deliver point-blank a raking volley of from 50 to 80 yards. From these data we can calculate how many horsemen must be placed in file, in order that the foot-soldiers charged by them may be killed or disabled. But, these raking charges must be executed only by horsemen completely masters of their horses, and skilful in wielding their swords. We must never forget that men must be required to do only what they can do well; they will always boldly undertake what they are sure they can do.

XI. *Charging by the Angles.*—This method is more advantageous and less murderous. It may happen that the cavalry is required to attempt a charge on a deployed line or a battalion in square, at the commencement of an action, when the rifles are in full power and the morale of the men is as yet untried. Whatever the number of horsemen, there are always four or six foot-soldiers to one horseman, according to the depth of the ranks—and the latter will be exposed to four or six bullets instead of one, which he can avoid, however, at the angles by the velocity of his raking charge.

XII. *In battle we must avoid keeping the cavalry in masses too near the infantry.* It is better to form several columns at deployment intervals. Cavalry charges must be prepared beforehand by a well-directed fire of the infantry and artillery. We must always remember that a mere nothing suffices to insure their failure—an inequality of the ground, a bad direction, incapacity of the leader, exhaustion of the horses, the tumult of the fight, the effect of artillery, &c. Charges may be made in line, in column, in echelon, and in extended order. The chief object is to fall suddenly and obliquely on the flanks of the enemy, making the movement with a certain light troops in a single rank. These dam attacks, especially if veiled by a cloud of dust, threaten the battalion against which they are directed. It may happen that the enemy's infantry, if without experience and untrained, gets disconnected by these movements, fires at random on this certain light troops, whose thin line nullifies the effect of most of the shots, hurriedly reforms, does so in disorder and with agitation—thus presenting a splendid target for a numerous charge, especially if charged by heavy cavalry.

XIII. *Speed of the Cavalry charging Artillery and Infantry.*—Fixing the precise point where we may begin to charge at about 600 yards, a light-horseman advancing against a battery, first walking, then successively at the trot, the gallop, and the charge, will be up in 2 minutes and 24 seconds, arranging his rates as follows: 95 seconds walking, 28 at the trot, 13 at the gallop, and 8 at the charge. He will have done this distance at the rate of about 4 yards per second, and during the same time—2 minutes and 24 seconds—the battery might fire 13 shots of 6-pounders. The same horseman, doing the distance without the transitions, will only take 113 seconds, which gives 5 yards 15 inches per second. If we apply the same researches to the charge against infantry, we find that the horseman, commencing at about 400 yards, does the distance in 50 seconds, receiving 3 shots, and with the speed of nearly 8 yards per second.

It is important to remember that the sword point exerts its effect, when skillfully handled, at the distance of 25 inches, whereas the bayonet does not project in front of the scabbard more than 20 inches, when in position against cavalry charging.

XIV. *Charges against Infantry and Cavalry.*—Charges of this kind are intended to penetrate the troops of the enemy; we must therefore seize the opportune moment—a deployment, a retreat, a crossing of a defile, an obstacle forcing a reduction of the front, and act with such cohesion as will break through all resistance.

XV. *Charges against Artillery.*—The care is different with artillery. These charges must be performed by the individual movement of a line of horsemen dispersed in extended order—presenting to the enemy only scattered men, but all making for the battery, to take it in front, on the flanks, in the rear—at the same time—with the utmost dash and impetuosity. They strive to turn the position, attack the supports by their weak side, harass their retreat, shake the morale of the drivers, cut the traces, spike the guns if they cannot be carried off, means to silence and shut up the battery completely. This mode of attack will prevent the great loss usual on such occasions, by avoiding that agglomeration which presents a good target for accurate practice—for, let us suppose that a column of 12 men in the front and 50 deep, is hurled against a 12-pounder, served by 20 gunners. Before it is reached these gunners will have delivered sufficient balls and grape to upset a portion of their adversaries—whereas, 25 horsemen in skirmishing order, at intervals of 25 or 30 yards, will certainly get up to the gunners without having suffered much in the rapid advance.

XVI. *Function of Light Cavalry.*—The light cavalry has been called the illuminating torch and the protecting shield of armies. Its place is everywhere—at the outposts in the grand guard, in patrols, in skirmishes, reconnoissances, surprises, flank-movements, diversions—as an advance-guard and as a rear-guard, where it is supported by heavy cavalry—in engagements of cavalry, where, in its turn, it acts as a support and reserve to heavy cavalry, whose victory it completes, by pursuing the routed enemy—or whose retreat it protects by attacking and surrounding on all sides the victorious squadrons. To protect the skirmishers of the line and disperse those of the enemy; to keep an eye on the battle line of the division and seize every favorable opportunity to make a dash on those of the enemy; to support the flanks of attacking infantry on the offensive, and on the defensive to be ready to sacrifice itself, if necessary, by rushing on the enemy's infantry to check its advance—it but for a moment—such is the noble and hazardous function reserved for the light cavalry—as performed by Desaix's division at Solferino.

The function of the lancers and light dragoons will be enhanced by the mobility of infantry and the increased range of the rifle and rifled cannon. They are often flung out to great distances, and in small detachments. They keep their eyes on the movements of the enemy—timble, active, audacious, they penetrate everywhere—they should be endowed with the instinct and intelligence of the trail-hunter, the craft of the poacher, the intrepidity of the filibuster. Without a tolerable and sufficient light cavalry, generals must march like blind men, and armies will be compromised. For such service, we must select special horses—active, full of nerve, light and impetuous—to suit their riders.

XVII. *Heavy Cavalry.*—Heavy cavalry—cavaliers and dragons—must not in battle to break down resistance by the force of its shock. Thus, at the battle of Austerlitz, the light squadrons of Gen. Marmont were checked by the Austro-Russian squadrons, while Bourcier's dragons repulsed the latter, and presented an impenetrable wall to the enemy's attempts. Speaking comparatively of the two arms, each has its value according to its employment. Indeed, with equal morale, a regiment of cuirassiers or dragons will always crush a regiment of chasseurs or hussars; but, on the other hand, the function of the heavy cavalry could not give decisive results without the aid of the light troops. It is therefore necessary, in good tactics, to marry these two arms, and combine the strength and weight of one with the impetuosity and lightness of the other.

XVIII. *Qualifications of a Cavalry Commander.*—To command and handle cavalry requires long study and experience, but to manage it so as always to have it in condition to act, is an object that few officers can attain. The commander of cavalry must combine cool determination, sangfroid with impetuosity, and this is a rare combination. He must be full of daring and yet deliberate in his action, or these characteristics must be so blended as to be, on occasion, equally within his control. In certain circumstances the commander's daring wins the day, but, on the other hand, when in excess, it may entail disaster. If, however, he is too prudent, too deliberate, he is condemned to negative results in a campaign.

XIX. *On the Offensive Return of Cavalry.*—The infantry and the cavalry owe a mutual cooperation to each other. An offensive return of the cavalry in a retreat may change the aspect of affairs completely. At Magedline Marshal Victor was retreating before the Spanish, covered by his squadrons. The enemy's general having committed the fault of pursuing him too near with his infantry, in the hope of driving him on the Guadiana, Gen. Latour Maubourg suddenly fronted and rushed like a thunderbolt on the Spaniards, who were not more distant than the range of a pistol. He dashed at their front with three regiments of dragons, while Gen. Lasalle and Bordesoulle hurled on the flanks of the enemy the 10th and 34 Chasseurs. In less than five minutes the Spanish army presented only a confused mass, lying in all directions toward San Benito and Villa Nueva—5,000 prisoners and 40 guns were the trophies of that affair.

Such a successful return on the offensive raises the morale of the army and spreads discouragement among the enemy. It is, therefore, important that the infantry should be supported in its offensive movements and sustained in its retreat.

By endowing the cavalry with mobility and rapidity, and placing it in the hands of a competent commander, it becomes indeed a formidable arm of the utmost importance in the field of battle. In the twinkling of an eye, cavalry has frequently changed a desperate conflict into glorious victory. Strokes of power, strokes of audacity, strokes of genius, are the special and peculiar exploits of cavalry; and Gen. Marmont reminds us that it is often at the very moment in battle when all seems lost, that a brave cavalry finds its best opportunity for winning distinction by boldly rushing upon the enemy at a moment when he can be easily conquered, precisely for the reason that he thinks himself already victorious. Thus, at Marengo, 500 horsemen, led by Kellermann, pouring down furiously on the Austrians at the moment of their greatest success, utterly stunned them by the vigor of the attack, pierced them on several points, and contributed by this brilliant charge to snatch from them a victory of which they had believed themselves assured.

Such, then, are the views and considerations which have directed the recent improvements in the French cavalry, whose results were most satisfactorily demonstrated at the camp of Châlons, on a recent occasion.

Colonel the Baron d'Asserac completely expresses the opinion of the generals of his country in the following avowment: "Were it permitted to raise for a moment the veil that hides the future of the cavalry, we are persuaded that we shall see its destinies enlarged. That is our conviction. Hereafter, the only part that the cavalry will play in the field of battle will be to strike decisive blows, to annihilate the enemy. In battle cavalry will appear like lightning; its action will be as terrible as it will be unforeseen and unexpected; it will warrant more than ever that ancient and poetical qualification of the Bible—in a horse strong—*prociat equitatis*."

The following appeared in a portion of our morning edition of yesterday:

GEN. MANFIELD'S VIEWS ON THE SLAVE QUESTION.

To the Editor of the N. Y. Tribune.

Sir: The correspondence of THE TRIBUNE are entirely in error as to Gen. Mansfield's views and opinions.

First: They assert that Gen. Mansfield registered collection of the wages of the contrabands, so-called. This is a mistake, he never received any authority of Gen. Wool on any subject; he is too good a soldier for that. They also assert that he has already changed his opinions; this is equally untrue. He has not changed his opinions since he first knew that Slavery existed in the United States by Constitutional law.

Second: They allude to an order of the 17th July, 1861, Gen. Mansfield gave to prohibit fugitive slaves from the camps at Washington, and is so inaccurate as to call it June last. This order referred to the slaves of Maryland, as at that time Gen. Mansfield had been relieved by Gen. McDowell, by the order of Gen. Scott, from the command on the Virginia side of the Potomac River, and it is well known that Gen. Mansfield refused to order or allow any fugitive slaves from Virginia to be sent back to that State, or be shut up in the jails of Washington. They were at liberty to go where they pleased, and if they could get no work the Quartermaster was ordered to feed them, and let them work for their food and clothing. Notwithstanding the constant applications by citizens of Maryland to have officers search their camps for slaves, he steadily refused to order an officer or soldier to catch a fugitive slave. It was no part of his duty, and he challenges THE TRIBUNE and its correspondents to find a man that can say he ever did give him like order.

Third: Gen. Mansfield has before been attacked by THE TRIBUNE and its correspondents, at Washington, and Gen. McClellan is reported to have countermanded it, which has never been done; for the order was strictly conservative, and suited to the occasion. He is now obliged to write these remarks because the correspondence of THE TRIBUNE are so ob-

noxious to the public and hazardous function reserved for the light cavalry—as performed by Desaix's division at Solferino.

The function of the lancers and light dragoons will be enhanced by the mobility of infantry and the increased range of the rifle and rifled cannon. They are often flung out to great distances, and in small detachments. They keep their eyes on the movements of the enemy—timble, active, audacious, they penetrate everywhere—they should be endowed with the instinct and intelligence of the trail-hunter, the craft of the poacher, the intrepidity of the filibuster. Without a tolerable and sufficient light cavalry, generals must march like blind men, and armies will be compromised. For such service, we must select special horses—active, full of nerve, light and impetuous—to suit their riders.

XVII. *Heavy Cavalry.*—Heavy cavalry—cavaliers and dragons—must not in battle to break down resistance by the force of its shock. Thus, at the battle of Austerlitz, the light squadrons of Gen. Marmont were checked by the Austro-Russian squadrons, while Bourcier's dragons repulsed the latter, and presented an impenetrable wall to the enemy's attempts. Speaking comparatively of the two arms, each has its value according to its employment. Indeed, with equal morale, a regiment of cuirassiers or dragons will always crush a regiment of chasseurs or hussars; but, on the other hand, the function of the heavy cavalry could not give decisive results without the aid of the light troops. It is therefore necessary, in good tactics, to marry these two arms, and combine the strength and weight of one with the impetuosity and lightness of the other.

XVIII. *Qualifications of a Cavalry Commander.*—To command and handle cavalry requires long study and experience, but to manage it so as always to have it in condition to act, is an object that few officers can attain. The commander of cavalry must combine cool determination, sangfroid with impetuosity, and this is a rare combination. He must be full of daring and yet deliberate in his action, or these characteristics must be so blended as to be, on occasion, equally within his control. In certain circumstances the commander's daring wins the day, but, on the other hand, when in excess, it may entail disaster. If, however, he is too prudent, too deliberate, he is condemned to negative results in a campaign.

two they cannot discriminate between a loyal Slave State and one in a state of armed rebellion.

Fourth: Gen. Mansfield had the same view relative to fugitive slaves (when he was in Washington) from Rebel States that he expresses in his letter to the Commission, and I, his friend, know it. Surely there is no ground to impute to him an entire change on so plain a subject. Your correspondence had better be about something else.

Washington, March 1, 1862.

UNCHANGEABLE.

FROM FORTRESS MONROE.

Fortress Monroe, Monday, March 4, 1862.

As Baltimore, Tuesday, March 4, 1862.

The boat from Old Point has arrived, but brings no news.

Nothing had yet been heard of the released Union prisoners.

No flag of truce had passed between Fortress Monroe and Craney Island.

Gen. Wool has refused to permit any more passengers to go South.

The Constitution, on her way up to Newport News, was fired on by the Rebel boat, but not damaged.

NORTH CAROLINA RELIEF COMMITTEE.

A regular meeting of the North Carolina Relief Committee was held at the rooms of the Chamber of Commerce, Friday, February 28, to listen to the full report of their Agent, Mr. E. K. Dow, who has just returned from Hatteras Inlet, after distributing the cargo of the schooner Elijah Sheddin.

The cargo was the result of the meeting held at the Cooper Institute, in November last, and was sent to relieve the necessities of the suffering loyal people of the coast of North Carolina.

The mission has been most successful, and a great amount of distress and, in some cases, actual starvation prevented.

The people are loud in their expressions of gratitude to the liberal citizens of New-York, and the effect upon the mainland where it was known